



GUARD FAMILY CONNECTION

Volume 2, No. 1 NORTH CAROLINA NATIONAL GUARD

FAMILY READINESS

INSIDE:

FAMILY PACKED ISSUE

Family Readiness Groups
Marriage Enrichment

TRICARE

Benefits increase for
National Guard Soldiers



GUARD FAMILY CONNECTION

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On the cover >>

Maj. Charlie Powley, a C-130H3 pilot assigned to the 145th Airlift Wing, N.C. Air National Guard, spends time with his wife Julie, and his sons Sean and Ethan after returning from deployment. He has since been promoted to Lt. Col., and is just one of the thousands of North Carolina Guardsmen and women who have deployed in support of the global war on terrorism since 9/11. Photo by Tech Sgt. Brian E. Christiansen, 145th AW Multimedia.

FEATURES



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Guard Family Connection
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The Adjutant General

Connecting Our Guard Families

Fellow Soldiers and Airmen,

Welcome to the third edition of the “Guard Family Connection.” The focus of this issue is on the vast resources available to all National Guard Families. It is our intent to consolidate this information in one magazine to assist family members as they navigate the various programs. This information is tailored for everyone who supports Guardsmen; from the immediate relatives, to the extended family, employers, church members, as well as co-workers. For a North Carolina National Guardsman, the term “Guard Family” includes all of his or her fellow service members and their families. With over 12,000 Soldiers and Airmen, that is a large family! It is a daunting task to connect everyone. We are pleased with the excellent resources and programs now in place and want to make this information easily available and accessible.



Guardsmen have the unique opportunity to serve together longer than active duty units. Therefore, Guard Families also have a unique opportunity to associate with other Guard Families for long periods of time. We watch each other pursue civilian and military careers, watch as children grow up and watch the bonds of deep friendship mature. Many of us have friends with whom we have served for years. It is because of serving together, working side by side in a unit, a battalion, a brigade, that we become one entity. Families serve beside their Guardsman and can become one entity through the Family Readiness Group. Working together to become one makes the entire organization more effective, more focused and more productive. Our family members, true Patriots, who loan the State and the Nation their most precious gift, their loved ones, deserve the very best that the National Guard Family Program can offer.

Soldiers and Airmen focus on the current mission, the next training event, or a possible mobilization. It is crucial that families are equipped with current, accurate information so that they can fully understand their role in their Guardsmen's mission. The role of the family is vitally important to the success of the mission. It is my hope that after reading this issue, families have a better understanding of the Family Program from the State level down to the individual unit level. I encourage our family members to be as involved in a Readiness Group as they can be. That is the best way to understand how to prepare for any mission, the best way to learn about available resources, and the best way to be connected.

Maj. Gen. William E. Ingram Jr.
The Adjutant General, N.C. National Guard

A message from Lil Ingram

Hurray for National Guard Families! What a supportive, capable, patriotic, inspiring group of individuals. Just as our Guardsmen trace their roots back to the Massachusetts Bay Colony 369 years ago, so do our Guard families. The story of the Guard family began the very day the first citizen-soldier laid down his plow in the fields and took up his musket. It was the citizen-soldier spouse who caught that plow, worked the land, reared the children, and kept the home fires burning. It was the citizen-soldier's children, with tear stained cheeks, bravely waving goodbye as their parent marched off answering his call to duty. These families were consumed with pride, determined to carry on in their citizen-soldiers absence. Likewise, it was these same citizen-soldier families that were overcome with joy, relief, and peace when their loved one safely returned from duty.

These admirable qualities of the earliest citizen-soldier and their families are most applicable to our present day Guardsmen and family members. Throughout our history, locations may have changed, duties may have changed, even the stereotypical Guardsman may have changed, but one thing has remained a constant, the value and importance of a family's support. A family's support and understanding are crucial to the success of any Guardsman's mission and inevitably to his or her very safety. When a Guardsman has the unwavering support of his or her family, he can focus on his mission, or task at hand, fully confident that things back home will be alright. His family can and will carry on because they have the knowledge and tools needed to face the challenges of military life. This knowledge and these tools are provided by the Family Readiness Program.

Years ago, an active Family Readiness Program was non-existent. Individual families coped as best they could. There was no strong network of unit Family Readiness Groups where family

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Family Message

A Message from Lil Ingram

continued from page 3

members could meet to discuss issues of concern with other Guard families. There was no State Family Program office or Family Assistant Centers with a trained staff of people whose sole purpose was to assist families, ease their concerns, and provide them with the best information possible. There were no web-sites, no emails, or cell phones to instantly connect the Guard family members. There was no urgency to make all Guard families ready. Oh, but look how far we've come... look how that mindset has changed!

Today, The North Carolina National Guard Family Readiness Program is well established and thriving. We now have the State Program Director, the Air Guard Family Readiness Program Manager, the Family Readiness Group Advisor, the NCNG Youth Coordinator, and our wonderful Family Readiness volunteers. It is my intent that no Guard family feels isolated, out of touch, or uninformed about all of the resources now available. To accomplish this goal, a strong readiness network was created. The State office, the Family Assistant Centers, the unit level Family Readiness Group leaders, and all Family Readiness Volunteers have a vital role in this mission of helping all families to be ready for whatever comes their way. In order for families to be ready, they must be equipped with accurate, current, pertinent information. Never before has such a vast array of information been available to family members. There are web-sites, newsletters, magazines, deployment briefings, phone calls, Family Readiness Group meetings, Family Assistant Center activities, Marriage Enrichment Seminars, Kids on Guard Youth Camps, and State and National level workshops and training for volunteers. The NCNG Family Program is comprised of caring, dedicated individuals who have the best interest of all Guard families at heart. They work tirelessly day after day to create, develop, and improve the most effective ways of communicating all that is available to our family members.

Our program is a work in progress. It is constantly evolving, improving, and changing the ways of reaching and assisting all families. The goals remain the same: to take care of our families, to put families first and foremost, to provide the very best assistance and information possible, to remain connected, and to help families to be ready. It truly warms my heart to see so many enthusiastic, focused, compassionate individuals working together to achieve these goals.

I began this article by saying, "Hurray for National Guard Families!" I will end it by saying, "Hurray for North Carolina National Guard Families!" Our families have been greatly challenged in the past few years. They have been asked to prepare for one or more deployments; they have been asked to be supportive and patient; and they have been asked to keep the home fires burning. They accepted these challenges. They understood that they were a vital part of the Guard Team, and they understood the importance of supporting their Guardsman. They turned to the Family Readiness Program when they needed assistance, and they grew to be a close knit family secure within the Guard Family. They offered unconditional love and compassion to the family members of our fallen Guardsmen. I stand in awe of the strength of our Guard families. It is an honor and privilege for me to work along-side these incredible families. I am so proud of your achievements.

It is my hope that all family members will participate whenever they can, as often as they can in the Readiness Program. Not only does the program provide valuable information, but within the program there are countless fun activities and events each month across the State. Most importantly, the program affords the opportunity to connect with other Guard Families.

Maj. Gen. Ingram and I truly thank all of the North Carolina National Guard families for their unwavering support, and for their invaluable role as a member of the Guard Team.

Families are the Heart of the Guard!
Lil Ingram



AIRMAN'S CREED

I AM AN AIRMAN

A Newly planted seed each day,
exceeding all expectations

I AM AN AIRMAN

One of the many, strong, and the proud
I AM AN AIRMAN

Backbone of the Air Force, focused
on quality, integrity, and excellence

I AM AN AIRMAN

Eager to learn the skills of tomorrow's needs.
I AM AN AIRMAN

Continuously striving to become more that
I thought I could and encouraging
my fellow airmen to do the same.

I AM AN AIRMAN

Going above and beyond what is appointed
by those appointed over me
I AM AN AIRMAN

A follower, transforming into a future leader
I AM AN AIRMAN

A part of the hope and promise of freedom,
willing to die so that freedom may live
I AM AN AIRMAN



THE SOLDIERS CREED

I am an American Soldier.

I am a Warrior and a member of a team.
I serve the people of the United States and
live the Army Values.

I will always place the mission first.

I will never accept defeat.

I will never quit.

I will never leave a fallen comrade.

I am disciplined, physically
and mentally tough, trained and
proficient in my warrior tasks and drills.

I always maintain my arms,
my equipment and myself.

I am an expert and I am a professional.

I stand ready to deploy, engage,
and destroy the enemies of the
United States of America in close combat.

I am a guardian of freedom and the
American way of life.

I am an American Soldier.

Family Readiness



Help for Veterans

The growing number of combat veterans in the North Carolina National Guard has increased the demand for getting accurate information and assistance to veterans and their families. In order to meet these



needs Joint Force Headquarters, in Raleigh, has added a full-time health and veterans benefits specialist. Andrew Butterworth, a retired sergeant, recently joined the personnel staff. Butterworth's personal experience in seeking veterans benefits makes him a great advocate for other veterans.

In November 2004, Butterworth was injured in an ambush while serving in Iraq with Company C, 1st Battalion, 120th Infantry, 30th Brigade Combat Team. The experience Butterworth gained while navigating this system taught him a valuable lesson.

"It [the Veterans Administration Benefits system] is just like the military, a large mechanism and you have to manipulate the system to get the right result," Butterworth explained.

Butterworth's knowledge extends not only to the Veterans Administration but other organizations designed to benefit veterans. "I can get you in touch with veterans service organizations, that help out veterans and their families" he said.

The wide geographic distribution of National Guard men and women across the state adds to the challenge of navigating the bureaucracy that can be a daunting task. Butterworth's job is to help veterans and their families navigate those murky waters.

To contact Mr. Butterworth call 1-800-621-4136 x 6782 or e-mail him at andrew.butterworth@us.army.mil.

Array of Forces — NCANG Units

145th AIRLIFT WING

- 145th Mission Support Group
- 145th Civil Engineer Squadron
- 145th Logistics Readiness Squadron
- 145th Security Forces Squadron
- 145th Medical Squadron
- 145th Aircraft Generation Squadron
- 145th Aerial Port Squadron
- 156th Airlift Squadron
- 156th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron



118th Air Support Operations Squadron



235th Air Traffic Control Squadron



263rd Combat Communications Squadron



Array of Forces — NCARNG Units



30th Brigade Combat Team (Heavy)

- 30th Headquarters Headquarters Co.
- 30th Special Troops Battalion
- 120th Combined Arms Battalion
- 252nd Combined Arms Battalion
- 150th Armored Cavalry Reg (WVARNG)
- 230th Brigade Support Battalion
- 1st Battalion 113th Field Artillery



30th Combat Support Brigade (Maneuver Enhancement)

- Headquarters Headquarters Co.
- 690th Maintenance Company
- 105th Engineer Battalion
- 505th Engineer Battalion
- 105th Engineer Group



449th Combat Aviation Brigade

- Headquarters Headquarters CO
- 1st Battalion 130th Aviation
- Det 1 A Co 1st BN 58th Air Traffic Svcs
- B Co 1st Battalion 126th Aviation Regiment
- 226th Division Aviation Support Battalion



60th Troop Command

- 42nd Civil Support Team
- 139th Rear Tactical Operations Center
- 730th Quartermaster Battalion
- 30th Corp Support Group
- 5th Battalion 113th Field Artillery
- 217th Human Resources Headquarters



113th Field Artillery Brigade

- Headquarters Headquarters Battery
- 105th Military Police Battalion
- C Co 161st Area Medical Services Battalion
- 540th Combat Service Support Battalion



Family Readiness

Family Readiness Groups & You

You hear a lot of talk about Family Readiness Groups (FRGs), but what are they? Who can join? Is it only for married service members? Who runs them? Who's responsible for them? How can they really help? Let's talk basics.

What is an FRG?

First, the FRG is the Commander's program. Since every Commander is a little different, each FRG will be a little different. The goal of an FRG is to provide mutual support, assistance, and a network of communication from the unit, to families, to communities. Other goals include, supporting the military mission through the provision of support, and outreach and information to family members. One of the responsibilities of an active FRG is to establish and maintain personal and family readiness among the unit's families.

Who can join an FRG?

Anyone who cares about a unit and is willing to volunteer their time can be a member of an FRG. An FRG is comprised mostly of family members: spouses, children, moms, dads, sisters,

aunts, uncles, etc. Other members often include boyfriends, girlfriends, retirees, and community members.

Who runs an FRG?

We suggest that an FRG have an active leader. In an ideal world, a Commander would have several applicants from which to choose. However, work, other commitments, and even physical location, can make it difficult for one person to take on the task of FRG leader. In this case co-leaders may be selected to handle the job. Please don't stop looking. An active FRG is the key to having ready families.

When do we need an FRG?

Some may think that it's only important to have an active FRG if your unit is being deployed, but that isn't the case. It is very important to have an active FRG all the time. Stop and think for a minute. What if the only time our service members trained was when they were going to be deployed? How ready would they be? FRGs and families need to be ready all the time. Remember, even if the unit isn't deployed, they may be activated for hurricane duty, snow/ice storm duty, or other emergencies. Schools, and annual training

may also cause soldiers and families to be apart for extended periods of time.

How do FRGs help?

FRGs are the link between the unit and family members. One way FRG volunteers establish this connection is through telephone trees. During deployment, telephone trees are an important way for families to receive "official" information. During peacetime they help notify families of upcoming events.

FRG volunteers also notify new unit members and their families about what's going on in the unit, invite them to join the FRG, and provide them with important unit information such as who the Commander is and who the FRG leaders are.

Commanders and FRG leaders are responsible for designing a program that not only help the units, but families as well. For example, the unit manning roster (UMR) provides current addresses and telephone numbers for soldiers and is a critical piece of information for both the unit and the FRG. The UMR is also a method for the FRG to get to know the service member and to update their own roster with family contact information. FRG volunteers can help the unit update the UMR during drill weekend.

Many units have a newsletter that goes out to each service member with information about the upcoming drill. An FRG might publish a paragraph in that newsletter about upcoming events, birthdays, new births, etc.

Most of us get ready for a meeting, get ready for work, we even get ready for bed, so, let's make sure that keep our families ready for whatever may come our way by keeping our FRGs ready and active at all times.

For more information on how to stay ready, active and up-to-date, please feel free to contact our FRG Advisor, Diane Coffill at 1-800-621-4136 x 5573.

What Family Readiness Groups Do

- Increase the soldier's ability to devote his full attention to the mission by offering reassurance that the family members have close, reliable, and friendly support.
- Help family members develop a more positive attitude toward themselves, the unit, the deployment and the military.
- Give moral support, provide a helping hand when needed, and help reduce family member stress.
- Empower families to become more knowledgeable and self-reliant.
- Are there to answer questions and access information and resources to help you solve problems.



Family Readiness

Guard Family Action Plan (GFAP)

Guard Family Action Plan (GFAP) is a grassroots process that directs actions to enhance readiness and increase retention by improving the quality of life for Guard members and their families. GFAP identifies issues of concern, quality of life, family readiness and retention for the total Guard family, which includes Guard members, retirees, and civilian employees. It's a process that identifies issues of concern, determines actions necessary to resolve issues, assigns responsibility for actions to the proper staff agency at the state, national or federal level. GFAP is a standardized management tool which provides a means of tracking issues submitted, disbursement and resolution. Issues are captured through the Guard Family Action Plan process, which includes a published GFAP Issue Book that identifies and addresses issues from the field.

Input from the soldiers, airmen, and families of the Guard, lets Guard leadership know what's working, what isn't, and what they think will fix it. It alerts commanders and Guard leaders to areas of concern and quality of life issues that need their attention. It gives them the opportunity to quickly put plans into place to resolve the issues or to forward them on to National Guard Bureau (NGB) and/or Department of the Army (DA)/Department of the Air Force (DAF) for consideration or resolution through the GFAP process.

What GFAP is:

- A grassroots process directing actions to improve Family Programs, benefits and entitlements for the National Guard Community

What GFAP does.

- Identifies issues of concern to Guard members, their families, and retirees
- Determines actions necessary to resolve issues
- Assigns responsibility for actions to the proper staff agency



- Determines actions necessary at state, NGB, and DA/DAF Levels
- Promotes the well being of Guard members, their families, and retirees

The GFAP Program is modeled after the highly successful AFAP (Army Family Action Plan) Program. The AFAP Process has delivered the following results:

- Service Members Group Life Insurance (SGLI) increased from \$50,000 to \$400,000.
- Raised Family Separation Allowance.
- Institutionalized Family Support Groups.
- Authorized unlimited commissary visits for Reservists.
- Established DoD Reserve Component family member ID card.

Mission

GFAP will increase family self-reliance, which will promote individual and unit readiness, family readiness and well-being.

Benefits

GFAP offers: family readiness, leadership skills, online and on-site standardized training, collaborative solutions, an online process to submit and address issues of concern, professional development, and instructor training.

Important Numbers

FAMILY ASSISTANCE CENTERS

1-800-621-4136
(+4-digit ext.)

ASHEVILLE:

Mrs. Lana Greer
828-271-5029 (ext. 5029)

CHARLOTTE:

Mrs. Patricia Carr
704-359-5745 (ext. 5745)

Mrs. Keneitha Delaney
704-359-5756 (ext. 5756)

FAYETTEVILLE:

Mrs. Nancy Smith
910-672-5140 (ext. 5140)

GOLDSBORO:

Mrs. Melissa Thames
919-739-5331 (ext. 5331)

GREENSBORO:

Mrs. Katy Jones
336-691-7712 (ext. 7712)

JACKSONVILLE:

Mrs. Dorothea Massey
910-347-4352
(ext. 8570 line 11)

MORGANTON:

Mrs. Nancy Davis
828-437-0746
(ext. 8112 line 18)

MORRISVILLE:

Mrs. Alice Dean
919-664-7616 (ext. 7616)

Mrs. Rena Wethington
919-664-7655 (ext. 7655)



Family Readiness

Marriage Enrichment

PREP Seminars Help Families Grow

In 2005, the National Guard Bureau (NGB), the North Carolina National Guard Family Readiness Program Office, and state chaplains worked together to provide marriage enrichment seminars for National Guard Service members and their spouses.

The Prevention and Relationship Enhancement Program (PREP), is not therapy and is probably unlike anything to which you or your spouse have been exposed. There are no encounter groups or sharing of personal concerns, simply thrilling insights for a more loving, growth-filled relationship.

PREP begins with teaching effective communication skills, then addresses problem resolution strategies that work. It reveals how to discover hidden issues in every relationship, and then moves into caring, fun and friendship.

PREP offers a fresh approach — it is basic and straightforward. The workshop material teaches couples the skills they need to nurture a lasting love. The workshop offers instruction on how to improve your marital relationship, cope with separation and promote successful reunification through communication. Couples spend most of the seminar in special discussions or practicing skills called “Speaker/Listener techniques”. Some key topics include expectations, commitment, forgiveness, feeling understood, and sensuality.

PREP has proven so effective, that it has been featured on “20/20”, “48 Hours”, and “Oprah”, as well as in the printed media.

Some of the comments from last year’s seminars were:

- “Instructor was very down to earth and humorous”.
- “Great job by the Chaplain facilitator”.
- “There was a feeling of relaxation and professionalism”.
- “Promotes attitude of comfort and ease leading to deeper discussions”.

- “Being away by ourselves show us that our marriage needs that occasionally”.
- “Excellent program to help couples rekindle the fire in the marriage”.



In 2006, five marriage enrichment seminars will be hosted across the state. The seminars are still in the planning stage, but the tentative schedule is listed on the right.

You will soon receive a marriage enrichment brochure in the mail. It will have all the dates and locations of this year’s seminars for you to choose from. Marriage enrichment retreats are for all married members and their families, whether you have deployed or not. Everyone is invited to attend but priority will be given to those who have returned from deployment and those who have not previously attended a PREP seminar. The brochure will contain instructions on how to register.

Couples are expected to arrive for registration Friday night, attend the entire day Saturday, and finish up on Sunday

morning. Also, on Sunday morning there is an optional recommitment ceremony.

To maximize the quality of your participation, we suggest that you arrange childcare, but if you are unable to do so, childcare will be provided during workshop hours. Thanks to the special funding from NGB, rooms are available at no cost both Friday and Saturday night. Usually, continental breakfast is provided on Saturday and Sunday mornings, and lunch is provided on Saturday. There are plenty of breaks during the day. Dress is always casual for these events.

The registration fee is \$20.00, however, civilian spouses are put on travel orders to cover mileage and per diem, and the service member will be paid providing that they have the approval of their Commander.

Don’t miss out on a great weekend at a glamorous resort with your spouse, this exciting opportunity is over a \$300 value.

We look forward to seeing you at these relaxing and informative events. So be sure to watch for the Marriage Enrichment Brochure and remember to register early for the event that you wish to attend!

TENTATIVE 2006 SCHEDULE

Date	Location
March 31 - April 2	Sunset Beach Area
June 23-25	Greensboro Area
July 14-16	Asheville Area
August 11-13	Asheville Area
August 25-27	Sunset Beach Area

QUESTIONS? CONTACT...

Diane Coffill
FRG Advisor

1-800-621-4136 x 5573
diane.coffill@nc.ngb.army.mil

Youth



National Guard Youth Rendezvous Essay Contest



The National Guard Youth Rendezvous is an event for high school juniors and seniors centered on the 200th Anniversary of the Corps of Discovery and the exploration of the west. The Youth Rendezvous will take place August 13-18, 2006 along the Lewis and Clark Trail in North Dakota. It will educate students about the Lewis and Clark journey as a military expedition

by exploring the leadership and values of the military of the past and the military of today. Students will be immersed in the history of the Lewis and Clark expedition while they are in North Dakota by being able to visit the actual locations where the expedition explored. Students must write an essay between 1,000 and 1,500 words – this length is absolute – essays cannot be less than 1,000 words or more than 1500 words! The event, including transportation, will be free of charge for those students with the winning essays. Ten students from each state and territory will have the opportunity to submit an essay to win a chance to walk in the footsteps of Lewis and Clark and see what the explorers saw more than 200 years ago.

This essay contest is open to all students who are U.S. citizens or legal aliens. Qualifying contestants need to be high school juniors or seniors in August 2006. The contest is entered at and selected at the state level. Only one entry per student is allowed.

Submit your essay online at this site and be sure that it conforms to the word limit between 1,000 and 1,500 words. Remember, each state gets to send 10 high school juniors and seniors so please make sure that you complete the registration information accurately to make sure you are judged in North Carolina. For more information, you may also contact:

Mrs. Cecelia Wallace
NCNG Youth Coordinator
Cecelia.wallace@nc.ngb.army.mil
NCNG Youth Coordinator
800-621-4136 ext. 5125

For more information visit:
www.lcyouthrendezvous.com/events

Operation Kids on Guard

“Operation Kids on Guard” is a program created to mentor and support National Guard children dealing with deployment-related issues.

WHO?

“Operation Kids on Guard” encourages participation among children of National Guard soldiers and airmen, deployed and non-deployed, ages 6-16.

WHAT?

“Operation Kids on Guard” is a platform that bridges the gap in services available to National Guard children facing deployment. The program provides a framework wherein children gain a greater insight and understanding of the National Guard military branch. This is accomplished using a weekend drill-type format, with commanders, squads, courses, physical training and more. This helps to instill a higher degree of pride in ones’ state and country. The program fosters a positive dialogue with children on a variety of deployment-related issues.

In addition they will be introduced to

various military jobs, physical training, play games, and meet other children of guard members.

WHEN?

These events are held at different times throughout the year. Contact your local family assistance center for more information.

WHERE?

Anywhere that some aspect of military life can be demonstrated to or experienced by the children. This will most often be an Armory or other military installation.

WHY?

Children of guardsmen are often reluctant to talk to their parents with the tough questions on deployments, they don’t want to upset the parent more than they may already be during a deployment. Kids On Guard gives the youngster a chance to ask other guardsmen these questions about deployments, training, jobs etc. It also allows the children of guardsmen to create bonds with kids of other guardsmen’ kids that share the same experience.



Call your local family assistance center for more information about kids on guard and how your child can get involved!!!







Benefits

TRICARE Benefits for National Guard

New Defense Funding Law Proposes Extending TRICARE to National Guard

Changes are coming for TRICARE Reserve Select. The Fiscal Year 2006 Defense Authorization bill has mandated TRICARE be available to traditional National Guard members. The law proposes three TRICARE opportunities for selected Guard members to enroll in the military health care program for a monthly premium. The proposed premiums are based on categories of eligibility:

Category 1: Members of the Selected Reserve, which includes the National Guard, who are called to active duty qualify for TRICARE Reserve Select (TRS). Under this program a reservist would accumulate one year of TRS coverage for every 90 days of active duty service. Monthly premiums during the years of accumulated eligibility are only 28 percent of the program cost. The government picks up the remaining 72 percent. As has always been the case, coverage is free of charge while on active duty. This bill now permits accumulation of earned periods of coverage for frequently deployed personnel. In addition, it authorizes 6 months of transitional coverage for family members following the death of the Reserve member, if the member dies while in an inactive status.

Category 2: Members of the Selected Reserve who are not called to active duty, and who otherwise do not qualify for health insurance due to unemployment or lack of employer-provided coverage, are eligible to enroll in TRICARE for a 50 percent cost-sharing premium. The government will pay the remaining 50 percent.

Category 3: Members of the Selected Reserve who do not fit into either of the above categories but would like to participate in TRICARE are eligible to do so for an 85 percent cost share. Employers are allowed and encouraged to contribute to the reservist's share. The government contributes 15 percent of the costs.

When on military duty, Guard members are covered for any injury, illness or disease incurred or aggravated in the line of duty, including traveling

to and from military duty, under line-of-duty procedures. Medical coverage (direct care at the Military Treatment Facility) is available when the member is activated. When ordered to active duty for more than 30 consecutive days, Reserve Component members have comprehensive health care coverage under TRICARE.

When ordered to active duty for more than 30 days in support of a contingency operation, Guard members are also eligible for "early" and transitional (demobilization) benefits.

When the Guard sponsor is on orders for more than 30 consecutive days, his/her family's medical and dental care needs are covered under several TRICARE options.

TRICARE policies and benefits are governed by public law; thus, changes to the health care plan are continuous: New benefits are added regularly and sometimes there are changes in the way a policy is implemented. The most current language used by TRICARE to describe the program is in the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for FY2006 (H.R.1815) which became Public Law No: 109-163 on 1/6/2006. Section 702, "Expanded Eligibility of Members of the Selected Reserve under the TRICARE Program," allows all Selected Reservists to purchase TRICARE Reserve Select, (TRS) type coverage, but there will be three tiers of premium sharing. The statutory effective date is October 1, 2006. Tricare Management Activity, (TMA) is working on developing this new benefit.



For more information please contact:
<http://tricare.osd.mil/north/default.cfm>

QUICK REFERENCE

TRICARE
www.tricare.osd.mil

Tricare Questions
questions@tma.osd.mil
888-363-2273

Hearing-or-Speech
Impaired (TTY/TDD):
877-535-6778

**U.S. Department
of Defense Military
Health System**
www.tricare.osd.mil

Eligibility (DEERS):
800-538-9552

TRICARE Prime Remote:
1-888-363-2273

Mail-Order Pharmacy:
1-866-363-8667

Retiree Dental Plan:
1-888-838-8737

**TRICARE Dental
Program:**
1-800-866-8499

TRICARE For Life:
1-866-773-0404

**Senior Pharmacy
Program:**
1-877-363-6337

**United Concordia
Dental benefits**
800-866-8499

Benefits



DEERS / ID Cards

What is DEERS?

DEERS is the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System. It is an automated information system designed to maintain timely and accurate information on service members and dependents that are eligible for military benefits and entitlements, and to detect and prevent fraud and abuse in the distribution of these benefits and entitlements. DEERS pre-enrollment is to ensure that eligible dependents benefits are extended in a timely and accurate manner in the event of mobilization of the sponsor for a period in excess of 30 days or if the sponsor is put on orders in excess of 30 days. DEERS also affects the Family Service Members' Group Life Insurance (SGLI) program. So, if your dependents are not loaded in the DEERS system then their eligibility for SGLI will be effected.

What documents do I need?

The following are the documents required for the DEERS to verify and validate the information: Marriage Certificate, Birth Certificates (children),

Social Security Cards (spouse and children), driver's license/picture ID (spouse). If the sponsor is not with the dependents then they must have a DD Form 1172, completed and the soldiers signature notarized with seal by a notary or have a Power of Attorney. You must also have this documentation to obtain an ID Card.

Registration and ID cards

You can go to any military installation to have your dependents updated in the DEERS System. If you get an ID Card you will also be updated in DEERS. If you or your dependents don't have an ID Card visit one of the locations listed on the right with the supporting documentation, and get loaded into DEERS simultaneously. Children under age 10 can normally use the ID card of their parent or guardian, but they must be registered in DEERS. At the age of 10, the child's sponsor should obtain an ID card for the child. Children under 10 should also have an ID card of their own when in the custody of a parent who is not eligible for benefits.

Better Move Program offers Real Estate Rebates

A little used North Carolina National Guard Benefit might save a Soldier or Airman big bucks. The Better Move Program offered through the North Carolina National Guard Association (NCNGA) can provide discounts on commercial and residential property.

The program provides cash rebates, discounts on title insurance and local movers, closing credits and counseling.

Rebates are given for both buying and selling property through Better Moves. The cash-back amount is based off the sale or purchase price. For example, the Better Moves Program closed a house for \$198,000, approximately the median price for Wake County. The buyer received \$800 cash back. If the buyer also sold a property through the program an additional \$800 rebate would be available for a total of \$1,600.

Title insurance and van rental discounts are also available from companies affiliated with the program.

Homebuyers receive counseling on how to improve credit scores, types of loans, the local real estate market and available agents with high sales volume.

There are requirements to participate in the program. The candidate cannot already be contractually obligated to a real estate agent or firm. Anyone wishing to qualify for the cash back benefit must be placed with an agent through the Better Moves staff and must complete the transaction with the agent that is selected by the program.

Soldiers or Airmen wishing to use the benefit must call the program and identify that they are with the NCNGA and are calling for the Better Moves program.

The Better Moves program provides professional real estate assistance locally or nationwide, home related services and discounts including movers potential closing credit on loans, preferred rates for standard title insurance policies and a cash-back program whenever you buy or sell real estate.

For more information contact:

Better Moves Program

http://www.hpwc.com/consumerservices/better_moves/national_guard.aspx

Toll Free Hotline: 888-222-6077

e-mail BetterMoves@hpwc.com

North Carolina ID Card Facility Locations

JFHQ North Carolina National Guard
919-664-6250

**145th AW North Carolina ANG,
Charlotte, ANG**
704-391-4782

18th Airborne Corps, Ft. Bragg, USAR
919-396-9339

**312th Field Hospital, NMCRC,
Greensboro, USAR**
800-432-0552

916th ARW Seymour Johnson AFB, USAFR
919-722-2219

**Ft. Bragg 82nd Airborne Division,
Ft. Bragg, USA**
910-432-4182

Ft. Bragg JSOC, USA
919-243-0564

Ft. Bragg SOTF, USA
919-396-0985

I&I Staff, NMCRC Greensboro, USMCR
336-668-0866

MCAS Cherry Point, USMC
252-466-3330

MCB Camp Lejeune, USMC
919-451-1005

Military Ocean Terminal Sunny Point, USA
910-457-8452

NAVAJR Depot Cherry Point, USN
252-464-7397

NMCRC Charlotte, USNR
704-598-0447

NRC Asheville, USNR
866-209-9336

NRC Wilmington, USNR
919-762-9676

Pope AFB, USAF
919-394-2276

Seymour Johnson AFB, USAF
919-722-4027

USCG ISC Elizabeth City, USCG
252-335-6485

**Naval Reserve Center,
Western Blvd, Raleigh, USNR**
919-834-6461

**For locations outside
of the state visit:
[http://www.dmdc.osd.mil/
rsl/owa/home](http://www.dmdc.osd.mil/rsl/owa/home)**



Employer Support of the Guard & Reserve

Employers See Airmen in Action



Master Sgt. Jorge Collier (right) goes through a pre-jump checklist with a fellow jumper to demonstrate to N.C. employers what Airmen do during drills at a Bosslift held at New London in Oct. Photo by Spec. Robert Jordan.

NEW LONDON- Over 20 North Carolina Air National Guard Employers went to New London to see Airmen in action and learn more about the Guard during a Bosslift last fall.

Bosslifts introduce employers and supervisors to military training where they observe Soldiers and Airmen on duty. "It is a chance to see what Airmen do," said High Point Fire Department member Randy Campbell.

Employers see firsthand the type and quality of military training and leadership activities North Carolina National Guard members receive and bring to their civilian occupations. "Companies are very happy

employing Airmen. Airmen are disciplined, have a strong work ethic, and are stand alone workers," said Chief Master Sgt. Orick.

Guard Employers are critical to mission readiness. "Employers make a commanders job easier," Brig. Gen. Clontz, chief of staff of the North Carolina Air National Guard.

The teamwork between Guard and employer is critical today. "The Guard is carrying a tremendous load, as employers, you are a critical part of the war on terror," said Johnny Dwiggins of North Carolina Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve. "We have the best employers in the Union," said Dwiggins.



Air Guard Contact

SMSgt Jim Rorie
980-621-1701

Army Guard Contact

Johnny Dwiggins
919-612-5421

What is ESGR?

Employer Support for the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) is a Department of Defense organization. It was established in 1972 to promote cooperation and understanding between Reserve component members and their civilian employers. They assist in the resolution of conflicts arising from an employee's military commitment.

ESGR Mission

To gain and maintain active support from all public and private employers for the men and women of the National Guard and Reserve.

Can ESGR help me?

ESGR is available to all units and every service member to assist with good, sound employer relations. ESGR assigns a unit liaison representative to every unit. You may contact that individual for assistance, or use the phone number, website, or e-mail address listed below. ESGR will assist you with any job related issues.

1-800-336-4590

NCESGR-OMBUD@OSD.MIL

WWW.ESGR.COM

Employer Support of the Guard & Reserve



Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act

U.S. Attorneys from across the nation held a press conference at the North Carolina National Guard's Military Academy at Ft. Bragg on Jan. 13, 2006. The conference proclaimed the continuing support of the Department of Justice for the rights of deployed service members through the enforcement of the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA). USERRA protects the employment rights of National Guard, Reserve, and deactivating service members of the Armed Forces.

"We express our support for our military, their employment must be protected upon their return," said Jim Greenlee, Chairman of the Military Issues Working Group of the Attorney General's Advisory committee.

The need to protect the reemployment of the Citizen Soldiers was critical. "The U.S. was born out of the Revolutionary War fought largely by the Citizen Soldier," said Rena Comisac, Deputy Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights. "It is our duty to protect the Citizen Soldier."

USERRA can bring the full weight of the Department of Justice.

"When it gets to the Department of Justice it is serious," explained Frank D. Whitney, U.S. Attorney Eastern District of North Carolina. A suit against American Airlines was highlighted during the conference. "This is the biggest case under USERRA in history," said Whitney.

No employer is too big if a credible case is brought to the Department of Justice. "If a service member has a meritorious case, the Department of Justice will be your lawyer," said Comisac.

The speakers stressed that while the



Jim Greenlee, Chairman of the Military Issues Working Group of the Attorney General's Advisory Committee, opens a press conference about USERRA at the NCNG Military Academy at Ft. Bragg, on Jan. 13. Photo by Spec. Robert Jordan.

Department of Justice is prepared to take on any case of a service member being discriminated against, it is a last resort and service members should first look to other means to resolve the issue.

"Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) is the first thing you want to think of," said Bud Brown, State Chair of the N.C. ESGR Committee. "We have had good success with N.C. employers." ESGR counsels soldiers and contact employers to work out deployment difficulties.

If ESGR cannot resolve issues through education and communication with the Service Member and the employer, then the U.S. Dept. of Labor can be of assistance before the service member uses USERRA.

"We have had numerous complaints

but nearly all have been resolved through negotiation," said Steve Guess, U.S. Department of Labor, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Veterans Employment and Training Service (VETS). "N.C. employers have been very hungry for information,"

These non-judicial routes resolve most problems. "Since 9-11 over 530,000 Service Members have deployed. Of those 5,800 were referred to ESGR and of those 1400 were referred to VETS and of those 55 nationwide were referred to the Department of Justice," said Greenlee.

Any service member looking for more information can go to:

<http://www.esgr.org>

<http://www.dol.gov>

<http://www.usdoj.gov>



Homecomings

Welcome Home!

112th Finance Detachment *By Spec. Robert Jordan*

A welcome home ceremony for the Soldiers of the 112th Finance Detachment, headquartered in Morrisville, was held at the unit's armory adjacent to the Morrisville Flight Facility at 1 p.m. on Tue., Nov. 15, 2005.

"It is the day mommy is coming home," said Teanna James, daughter of Spec. Kelli Riley of Raleigh. "It is good to be back home, I thought about her every day," said Riley.

The nearly 20 Soldiers of the 112th Finance Det. were called to federal active duty in Oct. 2004 when the unit was activated to support Operation Iraqi Freedom. After several weeks of mission-specific training at Ft. McCoy, Wis., the soldiers deployed to Kuwait and then to Iraq.

"It is very difficult, you are always waiting," said Tannah Wingerter, wife of Spec. Jeremy Wingerter, about the deployment. "I was outside the military and nobody understood what I was going through." "As soon as he leaves the heater breaks but family helped out a lot."

The Soldiers operated and maintained all financial operations for Logistical Support Area (LSA) Anaconda in Iraq. "You do not mess with Soldiers pay, it is really important what these Soldiers did," said Maj. Gen. William E. Ingram Jr., the Adjutant General of the North Carolina National Guard.

The unit ran customer service, processing, reserve pay, disbursing, accounting, and commercial vendor services offices. The Soldiers collected, disbursed and handled millions of dollars every week. They also dispatched Finance Support Teams around the country.



Spec. Kelli Riley, of Raleigh, kisses her daughter, Tenna James, after a welcome home ceremony for the soldiers of the 112th Finance Det. Nov. 15, 2005 in Morrisville.

The units' commander praised his soldier's achievements. "You should be proud of what you have done, take some time to relax, you are home and you are safe," said 1st. Lt. Michael Worley.

Other 112th Finance Detachment deployments include Jan. 1991 in support of Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm serving at Ft. Bragg, N.C. and Nov. 1996 in support of Operation Joint Endeavor in Bosnia.

217th Personnel Services Battalion *By Spec. Lynn Wilson*

The 217th Personnel Services Battalion (PSB) was welcomed home Oct. 27, 2005 after a year long deployment in Iraq by family, friends, and fellow soldiers at the Butner Armory in Butner, North Carolina.

The 217th, under the direction of Lt. Col. Marybel H. Johnson, Commander, they managed Joint Military Mail Terminals (JMMTs) in Baghdad and Balad, ensuring the timely and accurate flow of over 76 million pounds of incoming and outgoing mail.

The motto of the 217th is "committed to the soldier". "Everyday we tried to do the right thing for the soldier, because some of them might not have a tomorrow," said Johnson.

Upholding this motto, the 217th worked together to streamline all areas of mail operations. These areas include processing and delivering mail, zip code management and quality assurance.

According to Johnson, the 217th PSB identified inefficiencies in

the distribution plan for mail and implemented a plan which reduced dangerous convoys, saving lives, and reducing mail delivery times to soldiers from 15 days average to 10 days.

The soldiers went above and beyond what was required by searching Army Knowledge Online (AKO) for soldiers with incorrect mailing addresses, locating them and correcting the problem. This attention to detail and commitment to the soldier helped to reduce the amount of misdirected mail by 97%. The 217th worked hard to ensure that virtually no packages had to be returned to the sender.

Hard work and determination was the key when the 217th took on the responsibilities of establishing mail handling guidelines, coordinating mail transportation, and ensuring security of personnel and material. "We stayed focused and committed to the soldier," said Johnson.

Operation Iraqi Freedom



725th Transportation Company

Sgt. Rachel Brune, 101ST Sustainment Brigade

On a recent trip to Logistical Support Area Diamondback Nov. 4, Sgt. 1st Class William Belch, gun truck platoon sergeant, kept one eye on the road and one on the other trucks in the line.

Belch, a former infantry Soldier from Edenton, N.C., is one of many combat arms Soldiers riding with the 725th Transportation Company.

Nearly 75 percent of the unit was cross-leveled in for the deployment to Mosul, Iraq, according to Capt. T. Sydney Shinn, company commander. About 30 of those Soldiers come from combat arms specialties.

The 725th, originally a North Carolina National Guard company of fuelers, now acts as a transportation unit, hauling all classes of supplies in the 3rd Corps Support Command area of operations.

Shinn said the gun truck platoon provides security for the drivers transporting supplies on tractor trailers. The special platoon was created prior to deployment, after the command researched what other transportation units in Iraq were doing.

"We scoured the Internet, and got information from everything from the Vietnam era to CFLCC," said Sgt. 1st Class William Belch, referring to the Coalition Forces Land Component Command.

Belch, the gun truck platoon sergeant, added that, at that time, there was no information on training soldiers to serve this kind of duty. Once the unit arrived in Kuwait, "we were able to operate as gun trucks and do some firing."

Another week of training with the 40th Transportation Company, also based on Q-West, "brought it all together," said Belch.

In addition to their transportation mission, 725th Soldiers contribute to force protection on Q-West Base Complex, providing security at the entry control point and the third country national staging area, Shinn said.

As a National Guard unit, many of the Soldiers have civilian truck driving experience. These Soldiers were tapped primarily for the actual hauling missions, which Shinn believes contributes to the unit's record of four months in theater with no major accidents or rollovers.

At the maintenance yard, Chief Warrant Officer (2) William Hollingsworth, of Durham, N.C. oversees 15 mechanics and one clerk to ensure the vehicles are ready to go out on the road and safely complete the mission.

The drivers also conduct "supervised" preventive maintenance, evaluations, and service of the vehicles. If they run into a problem that requires greater expertise, the mechanics are there with a solution.

"Everyone works together as a team," said Pfc. Kevin Thompson, truck driver, from Wilmington, N.C., "Everyone takes care of each other."

Thompson, originally from North Carolina's 30th Infantry Brigade, was one of 15 Soldiers who volunteered for a second deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

"It's a lot of fun," Thompson said about his job as a driver. "When everyone's doing everything right ... you get a really good feeling."

Because the unit is operating as a transportation company in lieu of its original mission, most Soldiers find themselves learning new skills on the job, added Shinn. Two of them, Master Sgt. Allen Castelloe and Sgt. 1st Class Vernon White found themselves learning to be expert drivers.



Sgt. Dan Lima, 725th Transportation Company gunner, mans an M2 .50 caliber crew-served weapon during a mission to Logistical Support Area Diamondback Nov. 4, 2005. Photo by Sgt. Rachel A. Brune.

In their new positions, Castelloe and White are responsible for coordinating missions, scheduling crews, assigning vehicles, coordinating maintenance schedules, and tasking assignments, said Shinn.

"These two Soldiers had no previous experience as [expert drivers], and no formal training after learning of the company's mission," said Shinn. "Yet, to see them today, one would never know they were not from a transportation background."

Shinn spoke highly of all of his troops' commitment to the Warrior Ethos.

"They have been asked to put aside their daily lives, conduct a mission they were not trained to do, and have proven that they can accomplish the missions with pride, dignity, and professionalism," said Shinn.

"Our guys are always working together," said Cpl. Patrick Egan, a former infantry Soldier from Fort Lauderdale, Fla., who is now a gun truck platoon driver. "We're a pretty tight group."



Chaplain's Corner

Army Guard welcomes new Chaplain

Chaplain (Capt.) Steven King of Holly Springs has been named the new full-time Support Chaplain for the Army Guard.

The duties of the Army Chaplain include supporting Soldiers, families and guard employees across the state. Increasing mobilizations have brought a greater need for chaplain support to Soldiers and families dealing with the stress of deployment.

Deployments mean state-wide responsibilities for King. He makes presentations to communities, civic groups, state legislatures, churches and schools. "I have the freedom to travel, visiting hospitals, churches who request a Guard chaplain," King said.

Units needing a chaplain can also request support. "I can connect a unit with a traditional, M-day, chaplain," King said.

King stressed that families are a central concern and urges soldiers and their families to prepare ahead of time for deployment. He encourages family members to get plugged into a Family Readiness Group (FRG) as soon as possible.

"FRG's provide practical day to day support, referrals and community support," King said. "Where I come in is spiritual and emotional support, stress is very high during a deployment."

The Guard mission is supported by the actions of the FRG and chaplains. "If a Soldier is suffering mentally or spiritually, the Soldier is not as good an asset as they could be," King explained. "We help Soldiers cope with doing the mission and dealing with crisis at home."

Traditional weekend drills also need chaplain input. Chaplains provide counseling and religious services on the unit level. There is one chaplain per battalion to cover several companies.

Chaplains are an important part of any commanders team and



Chaplain (Capt.) Steven King with Capt. Moser of the 30th Brigade Combat Team meet with local Iraqi religious leaders needing repairs to a local Mosque vandalized by Saddam Hussein's Soldiers early in the war.

King encourages commanders to include their chaplain in the unit training plan. "The chaplain is part of the commanders special staff," King said. "Chaplains are there to train like any other Soldier and ready to deploy. The number one objective is to uphold the free exercise of religion for Soldiers, all faiths no preference."

Show your patriotism...

The North Carolina General Assembly recently authorized a specialized license plate that will let citizens display their patriotism while supporting the National Guard Soldiers and Airmen Assistance Fund. The fund provides emergency aid to North Carolina National Guard Soldiers, Airmen, and their families that experience financial crisis and need a helping hand. The new plates cost \$50 with \$20 from each sale donated to the Soldiers and Airmen Assistance Fund (personalized plates are also available for \$80). Each plate has the phrase "In God We Trust" and the familiar "Support our Troops" Yellow ribbon. The Department of Motor Vehicles requires a minimum of 300 applications for plates before production will begin. For more information and an application, visit the North Carolina National Guard public web site, www.nc.ngb.army.mil.



www.ncnga.org/benefits/license.asp



www.ncdot.org/DMV/



www.nc.ngb.army.mil/saaf.html

Community Resources



Classifieds

NATIONAL GUARD

Guard Knowledge Online (GKO)

<https://gko.ngb.army.mil/>

North Carolina National Guard Public Website

<http://www.nc.ngb.army.mil>

Virtual Armory

www.virtualarmory.com

ARMY

Army Knowledge Online (AKO)

www.us.army.mil

Army One Source

Call 1-800-464-8107
www.armyonesource.com
User ID: army
Password: onesource

AUTOMATION TOOLS

TSP Calculator

www.tsp.gov/calc/index.html

Social Security Benefit Calculators

www.ssa.gov/planners/calculators.htm

Life Insurance Calculator

www.opm.gov/calculator/index.htm

BANKING

USAA

usaa.com

State Employees Credit Union

www.secu.org

DISCOUNTS

Here's To The Heroes

www.herosalute.com
1-800-342-5283

EDUCATION BENEFITS

LTC Kenneth Bowers Education Services Officer

919-664-6272

Education links:

www.gibill.va.gov/
www.virtualarmory.com
[www.dantees.doded.mil/
dantes_web/](http://www.dantees.doded.mil/dantes_web/)
www.aarts.army.mil

FAMILY

Army Community Service

www.armycommunityservice.org/home.asp

Army Family Team Building

www.rmyfamilyteambuilding.org/skins/AFTB/home_login.aspx

Military Spouse Resource Center

www.milspouse.org
www.guardfamily.org
www.gftb.org

INSURANCE

USAA

usaa.com

Servicemembers Group Life Insurance

www.insurance.va.gov
Toll-Free: 800-419-1473

LEGAL

Fort Bragg Legal Assistance Office

(910) 396-6113
or (910) 396-0396

JAG Online

[www.jagcnet.army.mil/
legal](http://www.jagcnet.army.mil/legal)

MONEY MATTERS

Defense Finance and Accounting Finances (DFAS):

www.dfas.mil

Military Money

www.militarymoney.com

MY PAY

[https://mypay.dfas.mil/
mypay.aspx](https://mypay.dfas.mil/mypay.aspx)

Thrift Savings Plan

Thrift Savings Plan Website
www.tsp.gov

Thrift Line:

1-877-968-3778

TRAVEL

DoD Per Diem, Travel and Transportation

www.dtic.mil/perdiem/

Per Diem Rates

[www.dtic.mil/perdiem/
faqmilea.html](http://www.dtic.mil/perdiem/faqmilea.html)

Defense Travel System

www.dtic.mil/travelink/

Armed Forces Vacation Club

www.afvclub.com
1-800-481-5738 ext. 8253

Military Space Available Travel

www.spacea.info

Pope AFB Space A

Commercial: 910-394-6527
DSN: 424-6527
Flight Info Recording
Commercial: 910-394-6525
DSN: 424-6525

Navy Lodging

www.navy-lodge.com
1-800-NAVY-INN or
1-800-628-9466

Fisher House

www.fisherhouse.org

U.S. Army MWR

www.armymwr.com
Phone: 910-396-8747/8687
DSN: 236-8747 (trip)
or 8687 (tour)

VETERAN'S

Veteran's Centers

Charlotte:
(704) 333-6107

Fayetteville:
(910) 488-6252

Greensboro:
(336) 333-5366

Greenville:
(252) 355-7920

Raleigh:
(919) 856-4616

American Legion

<http://www.legion.org/>

Veterans of Foreign Wars

<http://www.vfw.org/>

Department of Veteran's Affairs

<http://www.va.gov/>

YOUTH

Air Force Crossroads

[www.afcrossroads.com/
kids/index.cfm](http://www.afcrossroads.com/kids/index.cfm)

National Gallery of Art

www.nga.gov/kids/kids.htm

Guard Family Youth

www.guardfamilyyouth.org

Get one while they last...

**RENOWNED ARTIST DON STIVERS COMBAT PRINT
FOR THE 30th BCT ACTIONS AT BAQUBAH HAS ARRIVED**

The 30th BCT prints have arrived at the military center. Individuals who preordered will be contacted by the phone and e-mail on their order form for pickup times for framed prints. The sale will continue until all 500 prints are sold. The plates for this print have been destroyed. This print is a unique numbered commissioned print with proceeds going to the Soldiers and Airmen Assistance Fund.

The print commemorates a battle fought by A Co. 1/120th Infantry in Iraq on June 24, 2004. While on patrol in Baqubah, Iraq, the third platoon of Alpha Co, 120th Infantry was ambushed by a large enemy force at dawn. This ambush signaled the start of a two day battle. Despite withering automatic weapons fire and constant pounding from rocket propelled grenades, third platoon quickly fought through the kill zone and then counterattacked several times. The platoon defeated an enemy force estimated to be company size or larger, killing many of them. As more enemy poured into the area, first platoon and the headquarters element joined the fight and during the intense engagement, the Alpha Company Commander, Capt. Cash and Bradley gunner, Spec. Desens, were mortally wounded. The company's armored vehicles were hit twenty times with anti-tank rounds. Despite the assaults from a well trained and disciplined enemy, the Bradley Fighting Vehicles and the Alpha Company soldiers in them continued to inflict heavy losses on the enemy.

During a lull in the battle, first platoon stopped near a graveyard to reorganize and treat their wounded. During the halt, they were attacked from the rear and the flank. Insurgents directed well aimed fire from several buildings,



**To order one of these unique limited edition art prints,
please e-mail steve.blackwood@nc.ngb.army.mil
or call 800-621-4136 x-6148.**

while simultaneously attacking with dismounted squads and vehicles attempting to charge into the platoon's position. Despite the intense assault, first platoon stood its ground and destroyed the attackers with well aimed fire while the aid teams continued to evacuate and treat the wounded.

Despite overwhelming odds, Alpha Company's discipline and leadership allowed them to recover and inflict heavy losses upon the enemy time and time again. The battle continued into the next day, but the enemy was broken and unable to mount an effective offensive again in the Baqubah area for several months.

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RALEIGH, NC 27607-6410

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